

The Brooklyn Paper

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BLOOMBERG, WHO?: The new mayoral family — Bill DeBlasio, his wife Chirlane McCray, daughter Chiara DeBlasio, and son Dante DeBlasio — celebrate DeBlasio's inauguration at City Hall on Jan. 1.

HUT, HUT, HIKE!

New cop shack has 11th St. neighbors riled

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

The mayor's new guardhouse has already landed him in the doghouse.

A mini-police fortress installed on the road in front of Mayor DeBlasio's Park Slope townhouse is the latest in a series of heavy-duty security measures that has some neighbors eager to see the First Family pack up and leave already.

"It is an eyesore," seethed next-



Not Gracie Mansion.

door neighbor Lourdes Leong, referring to the security shack. "I thought he already moved to Gracie Mansion — why does it take so long?"

The Slopers-in-chief announced on Dec. 12 that he and his family would make the move from their three-story pad to the city-owned mansion in Manhattan, but has not yet declared a date for the big schlep, leaving neighbors to deal with frequent closures of the 11th Street block between Sixth

See **SHACK** on page 9

BATCAVE SECURED

Trespassers, not pollution, developer's biggest headache

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

The state is set to dig the toxic dirt out from around the Gowanus Batcave, the hulking former subway powerhouse a millionaire wants to turn into an arts complex, but a more pressing problem is keeping out urban adventurers, the rich guy's spokeswoman said.

The announcement of a plan for a clean-up of the lot on Third Avenue between Carroll and Third streets is the first major step towards breathing new life into the



People really want to get inside the Batcave in Gowanus.

abandoned building since Joshua Rechnittz, the philanthropist behind a failed bid to build a cycling track in Brooklyn Bridge Park, bought it in 2012. The Department of Environmental Conservation's plan outlines how it would scoop up and cart off the lead, mercury, and other nasty toxins that make the place hazardous to human health, plus the building needs major structural work. But since the purchase, the new owner's main challenge has been keeping out the trespassers who have

See **BATCAVE** on page 9



Mayor DeBlasio leans in to smooch Carmen Farina, his pick for education chancellor, at MS 51 in Park Slope. Accredited writer Jonathan Lethem (inset) calls Farina his "favorite teacher."

Lethem is top teacher's pet

Writer gives new top school official his very highest marks

By Ryan Sit
for The Brooklyn Paper

The city's new school chancellor is Brooklyn to the core — and one famous native son would give her another apple if he could.



Carmen Farina began her new gig as head of the nation's largest school system last Thursday, but she got her start as an elementary teacher at Cobble Hill's PS 29, where she made a big impression on fourth-grader Jonathan Lethem.

See **FARINA** on page 8

14 TO WATCH IN 2014

Our predictions for the biggest newsmakers of the year to come

By Staff Reporters
The Brooklyn Paper

The future is unknowable, but we are students of the recent past and, as a result, we have an idea of what the next year might hold. We're confident these borough gadflies, changing neighborhoods, and upstarts-made-good will give our resident scribes plenty to write about in 2014.

#1: Bill DeBlasio on Long Island College Hospital

In mid-July 2013, Bill DeBlasio was getting arrested doing civil disobedience to draw attention to the state's attempt to close Long Island College Hospital and, according to him, sell the prime real estate it sits on to a luxury developer.

Fighting hospital closures was one of the signature issues of DeBlasio's campaign. But pointing out that Gov. Cuomo

pulls the strings at the state health department and the State University of New York, which were bent on shuttering the place, was not in his vocabulary.

Five days before his landslide November win, DeBlasio refused to divulge what the governor has been saying about the 155-year-old Cobble Hill hospital's fate behind closed doors. But in December, the state decided to hold off on considering a plan to turn the medical center into condos, offering to hand the keys over to

the city instead.

The ball is in the freshly-minted mayor's court. In 2014, with the governor's goodwill at stake and a whole city's problems competing for his attention, will DeBlasio finish what he started with the hobbled hospital?

Or will he let the issue languish now that his progressive pledges have car-



Letitia James: #4

ried him to City Hall?

#2: Ken Thompson

Brooklyn's first black district attorney has taken the reins at the prosecutor's office after 24 years of Charles Hynes in charge.

Thompson painted his opponent as corrupt and beholden to political special interests, but the rubber is going to meet the road in 2014 now that Thompson has to make actual decisions about how to handle some of the most hot-button

cases still wending their way through the courts.

What, for instance, will become of the reams of paperwork handled by assistant district attorney Michael Vecchione, who Thompson slammed on the campaign trail for wrongful convictions that came out of alleged prosecutorial misconduct? Or how about the pending prosecution of Orthodox Jewish sex abuse whistleblower Sam Kellner on extortion charges Kellner and others say were politically motivated?

But one of the big questions has already been answered. On Saturday, the New York Post first reported that Thompson has hired Abe George, the former Democratic candidate for borough prosecutor whose late July exit

See **2014** on page 2



Midnight babe

Mom Samantha Nieves and dad Shannon Willis of Crown Heights celebrate the arrival of their baby girl Shannon-Lee Willis at New York Methodist Hospital on Jan. 1. The infant arrived at the stroke of midnight, making her New York's first baby of 2014. The babe was followed into the world by newborns at the Brooklyn Hospital Center and Lutheran Medical Center at 4:38 and 4:48 am.

Brooklyn Bowl on a roll

W'burg venue to spread to London and Vegas

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The owners of Brooklyn Bowl will open two more branches of the rock and roll bowling alley this year — one in London and the other in Las Vegas.

The London branch will open on Jan. 16 or 17, co-owner Charley Ryan said.

"We are really excited about both of them," said Ryan. "I have

always loved London and it is a thrill to do something there."

The English edition of the popular venue will be in East London, steps from the O2 Arena, which is similar in size to the Barclays Center. Ryan said the proximity makes for hip company and that he will likely screen live feeds of the shows at his big-time neighbor.

The Bowl's owners started on the Las Vegas project first, but

finished the London branch more quickly, he said.

"It took a whole lot less time and money to build out," said Ryan.

The Williamsburg bowling alley and music venue opened in July of 2009 and has become a mecca for Brooklyn hipsters and tourists alike. The venue has hosted some high-profile shows, including Kanye West and Guns 'N' Roses.

See **BOWL** on page 9



Brooklyn Bowl is gearing up to spread the lane love.

River Cafe to reopen Feb. 1

15 months after Sandy's wrath

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

An iconic restaurant on the Dumbo waterfront will reopen on Feb. 1, more than a year after it got soaked by Hurricane Sandy,

according to staff members.

The latest reopening date for the River Cafe comes three weeks after owner Michael "Buzzy" O'Keefe told the New York Times the restaurant would reopen just ahead of

Christmas after failing to crack its doors in time for the Oct. 29 Sandy anniversary and for Thanksgiving. Workers we spoke to would not give a reason for the latest delay.

Hurricane Sandy ravaged the Dumbo waterfront in 2012, destroying the famous restaurant's piano and kitchen and keeping some eat-

eries, such as then-newly-opened Governor, closed for good.

The refurbished River Cafe comes with a new, \$76,000 Steinway piano in the lounge and will feature new menu items such as crisp oysters wrapped in smoked salmon with caviar, the Times reported.

So it's just a wrong number?

Spokescop: Blotter blackout is a big misunderstanding

By Nathan Tempey
The Brooklyn Paper

If at first you don't succeed, police headquarters will tell you that you weren't trying right and you should try, try again.

A spokesman at One Police Plaza told us that the restriction on media access to crime report information at local station houses, which began in early December, is ongoing because this paper's reporters failed to make requests for weekly meetings with the precincts' commanding officers directly to him. The public information officer said that the dozens of requests for such meetings made at the direction of former Dep-

uty Commissioner of Public Information John McCarthy to McCarthy, his immediate subordinate, and the commanding officers and community affairs departments of each of the 13 precincts we cover simply went to the wrong places.

"I'm the one that does this," Sgt. Brendan Ryan said. "I read every single e-mail."

The crime report information is the basis of this paper's weekly police blotter and only three precincts have continued cooperating with reporters since an order from One Police Plaza demanded

POLICE BLOTTER

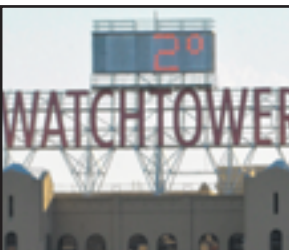


that all press requests be routed through the police public information office. At the blacked-out precincts, several commanding officers, who typically have not had a direct hand in providing weekly crime information, and community affairs and crime analysis cops, who have, told us that they are waiting for word from headquarters before letting journalists get access to the complaint forms again. Ryan says that is

See **BLOTTER** on page 4



Photos by Paul Martinika



Chillin'

The polar vortex that descended over Brooklyn on Tuesday pushed temperatures down to a record-breaking 2 degrees, according to the iconic Watchtower sign. It was the coldest day in the borough in 118 years, shattering the 1896 record of 6 degrees like an icicle.

2014...

Continued from page 1
from the race paved the way for a Thompson win. George will be the deputy bureau chief of the district attorney’s Major Narcotics Investigations Bureau.

#3: Downtown

Brooklyn’s central shopping and office district started to undergo a huge transformation in 2004 thanks to a rezoning that allowed skyscrapers to rise. Now, residential development is going whole hog and Fulton Mall has half-turned over to chain stores, including high-end retailers such as Swarovski and Armani Exchange. Some 3,300 apartments are expected to be built during the next three years, increasing the neighborhood’s population by four-fifths to 21,000. And, as hordes of mostly well-heeled people move in, so too will up-scale eateries,

bars, and grocery stores. The influx will strain already-taxed infrastructure and add to crowding in nearby neighborhood public schools. It will also build pressure to create such a school Downtown, where there is not one and none are planned, despite the huge growth. The city’s process for planning a new school takes years and has increasingly come to rely on the cooperation of big developers to build learning centers inside luxury buildings. There are plenty of high-priced towers planned to rise Downtown, but so far, the city has given no indication that it intends to put a school in any of them.

#4: Letitia James

The former Fort Greene councilwoman may be off to a rocky start as public advocate thanks to her lie that she pushed the New York Times to do an exhaustive front-page series on homelessness in the



city, but James has built her career outside of traditional political channels.

The public advocate’s office has long been an ugly duckling in the city’s structure. It is all-but-powerless and has been the subject of

frequent calls to abolish it entirely. But it has new stature now that DeBlasio, the city’s last full-time nag, is in executive office.

Something tells us part of James’ loose-tongued lapse came from the en-

larged ego that arises out of being a center of attention at City Hall. And if DeBlasio’s liberal leadership stays a hit with New Yorkers and James can avoid putting her foot in her mouth too often, she is the politician best positioned to follow his road-map from outsider to top office.

#5: The G train

There are a battery of big changes the Brooklyn Local needs in order to meet its long-suffering riders’ needs, but the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is holding off on most of them until it can find funding. In the meantime, Ghost Train commuters have a handful of welcome-but-minor improvements to look forward to, including better spacing between G and F trains, standardized stopping points, station public announcement systems, and better signage. Let us just hope that the next stop is the major overhaul the borough’s backbone deserves. And that it arrives soon.

#6: Eric Adams

The new Beep started the year with two big pledges befitting the theatrics his predecessor loved: bringing Brooklyn its own ball drop in time for next New Year’s Eve and establishing a borough Hall of Fame. We will of course be watching to see what other tricks he has up his sleeve and whether he will follow through.

But we will also be waiting to see what, if anything,



READY TO MAKE HEADLINES: (Clockwise from top left) Bill DeBlasio, seen here after getting arrested at a protest to save Long Island College Hospital, has some power over the hospital’s future now that he is mayor. We are scanning the shore for wayward dolphins like this one. The Bossert Hotel could really open this year. Atlantic Yards is set to get an infusion of Chinese cash.

happens with the May 2013 revelation that Adams is being a probed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The feds are not known for sharing when they have finished sniffing around about corruption — or when they are about to pinch a prominent pol — so Adams, who denies he has ever done anything corrupt, has to spend the year in suspense. So, too, do the rest of us who keep tabs on him for a living.

#7: Go-slow Slopers

Park Slope residents who want to see traffic reined in hit a speed bump in 2011 when the city snubbed their bid to have the neighborhood designated a “Slow Zone,” but the efforts have been picking up speed since the tragic October 2013 death of 12-year-old Samuel Cohen Eckstein on Prospect Park West. Activists, including Cohen Eckstein’s parents, spent the fall ramping up demands for a citywide 20-mile-per-hour speed limit on residential roads, which the Cohen Ecksteins say would have

saved their son. The road safety activists have gotten the word out through community meetings, a Council hearing, an attention-grabbing stunt involving fake speed limit signs, and, most recently, at Mayor DeBlasio’s inauguration.

The car critics found a receptive ear on New Year’s Day with DeBlasio’s roads appointee Polly Trottenberg, but they are not complacent. The group Right of Way has vowed to keep the mayor to his promise of reducing traffic deaths to zero, which they will do by trumpeting every fatality in 2014 over social media. As the weeks pass and DeBlasio’s campaign rhetoric fades into the muddle of everyday governance, it will be interesting to see what else these go-slow gadflies will do to keep traffic calming on the Sloper-in-chief’s agenda.

#8: The new Council

The last election brought a whole new crop of Council members to power in Brooklyn.

Laurie Cumbo sparked

controversy even before she took office by pointing to low-income black people’s resentment of Jewish business success as the likely cause of the so-called “knockout game” attacks in Crown Heights. She later apologized for the statement, but other big issues loom large as she takes the seat vacated by Letitia James, particularly Cumbo’s vow to be friendlier to developers.

Other first-year Council members include Antonio Reynoso, the former top aide to Diana Reyna who beat out disgraced former Assemblyman Vito Lopez for her seat, Carlos Menchaca, who ousted incumbent Sara Gonzalez, Coney Island’s Mark Treyger, and Midwood’s upset winner Chaim Deutsch.

#9: Bill Bratton on transparency

Police at neighborhood station houses stopped letting reporters access crime report information for our weekly police blotter in early December, citing orders from headquarters. Since then, only three of the 13 precincts we cover have been cooperating due to what we are calling the blotter blackout. When the crime news embargo began, the New York Civil Liberties Union insisted that the clampdown was a parting move by former Commissioner Ray Kelly, whose relationship with the press had long been combative, and would quickly be rectified by new top cop Bill Bratton.

So when will it?

#10: Bossert Hotel

It has been a long time coming, but the Bossert Hotel, once considered the Waldorf-Astoria of Brooklyn and host to the Brooklyn Dodgers’ 1955 World Series championship party, is slated to become an upscale guesthouse again. The revamp comes after decades of the building serving as an apartment complex and providing housing to Jehovah’s Witnesses. Rooms in the posh 302-room hotel are supposed to rent for \$250 per night and could transform the sleepy neighborhood into a global destination.

#11: Jason Kidd

The Nets’ former elder statesman switched into the role of rookie coach ahead of this season and so far it has not been pretty to watch. He could turn it around. Center Brook Lopez’s year-end foot injury makes that seem increasingly unlikely, but he could turn it around. We all love a comeback Kidd.

#12: New York Methodist Hospital

Park Slope’s hospital is expanding while nearby Long Island College Hospital and Interfaith Medical Center face shuttering after many lean years. Methodist’s apparent financial health is a good thing if you are a Methodist executive or a would-be patient, but tell that to neighbors who are against a proposed outpatient center that would take the place of 16 townhouses on three tree-lined blocks. The expansion will go up no matter what — the hospital can build a taller, thinner version without special permission if the city balks at its current plan.

But will the hospital continue to expand as the health-care industry moves away from the hospital model, as one insider told us it is doing, and other one-stop medical centers limp along on life support?

#13: Dying dolphins

Brooklyn was a dolphin graveyard in 2013, serving as the final resting place of four wayward cetaceans during the course of the year. Experts said a measles-like virus was responsible for the stranding deaths of 333 dolphins on the East Coast between July 1 and Aug. 27, including 96 on the shores of New York and New Jersey. But the coroner is still out on what killed the latest Kings County casualties, which is why we will be watching the borough’s ample shoreline for any sign of marine mammal maladies in the coming year.

#14: Atlantic Yards

A deal is in place to sell a seven-tenths stake in the stagnated mega-development to a Chinese-government-owned firm, but it is unclear what that means for its future. Forest City Ratner maintains that it will keep control, but a group of politicians, including new Public Advocate Letitia James, are demanding the state put the brakes on the sale and look for a buyer that will create affordable housing first. Also, there is no time-line in place for starting work on any of the 15 un-built towers which, under an early Forest City pledge, were supposed to be finished by 2016.

Who did we miss? Let us know in an e-mail at editorial@cnglocal.com.

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BROOKLYN NETS COVERAGE

Frontcourt needs to step up

FRONT COURT

By Tom Lafe

The good news: the Nets seemed to have found some success in a new approach. The bad news (at least for this columnist): the team is doing it with small ball! Small ball!

Through the first three games in 2014, the Nets are 3–0 — with probably the smallest lineup possible. Despite Deron Williams missing one of those three games (ankle) and Kevin Garnett missing another (rest), coach Kidd's philosophy has remained the same: get the best offensive playmakers on the floor (Reggie Evans for KG notwithstanding).

Kidd has shifted his starters to a bigger position in order to get an additional ball handler into the Backcourt. Shaun Livingston has entered the starting lineup at the two



Associated Press / Matt Slocum

Andray Blatche jumpstarted the Nets winning ways. Now he'll have to continue coming up big.

spot, Joe Johnson at the three, Paul Pierce at power forward, and Kevin Garnett as a make-shift center.

And while this half of the column is certainly encouraged by the Nets' mini-winning streak, we still want to see

more of the big men, and Andray Blatche in particular.

In the eight games since Brook Lopez went down with a season-ending foot injury, Blatche has missed four games due to personal reasons. In the four he has

played, however, he is only averaging just 8.25 points on 30-percent shooting with 4.25 rebounds.

Simply, Blatche doesn't need to be Lopez, but he needs to do enough to keep defenses honest. The other Frontcourt options aren't exactly low post scorers. Garnett defers more to his mid-range game at this point in his career. Teletovic prefers to play behind the arc. And Reggie Evans isn't exactly known for his scoring. Blatche needs to be that guy.

Without an interior scoring threat, it won't be long before opposing teams counter the Nets' small-ball approach. Blatche needs to provide that inside scoring punch off the bench.

Tom Lafe is a 6-foot-5 sports-world insider with a middling high school basketball career who believes the Nets will be driven by the success of the team's big men.

Getting small, starting to win

BACK COURT

By Matt Spolar

Say it with me: once you go small, you'll never go tall.

The Nets appear to have finally cracked the code. The answer to their woes, much to my taller colleague's chagrin, is small ball — playing with a smaller lineup that makes up for its lack of size with agility and shooting.

Though the decision to go small was prompted by a season-ending injury to big guy Brook Lopez, the reason it is a viable option is the Nets' little guys aren't that little. Deron Williams, at 6-foot-3, and Joe Johnson, at 6-foot-7, make for a hefty backcourt, and both have veteran post-up games that allow them to bully defenders. Backup point guard Shaun Livingston, who has been playing alongside D-Will in the new lineup, is 6-foot-7 with limbs that go on for days.

However, the Nets shouldn't



Associated Press / Kathy Williams

At 6-foot-7, Joe Johnson is the Nets' big little man.

presence in the low post; the Cleveland Cavaliers, who are adrift in the frontcourt after cutting ties with disgruntled center Andrew Bynum; and the Atlanta Hawks, who just lost star big Al Horford for the season with a torn pec.

Meanwhile, just when things were looking up, D-Will appears to have gone down again. Brooklyn's floor general was in a walking boot earlier this week, with talk of another round of plasma injections needed for his balky ankles. Without Williams pushing the pace, the Nets' offense is in peril of becoming a bunch of guys standing around while Joe Johnson or Paul Pierce goes one-on-one before pulling up for a 15-foot jumper.

Small ball has given Brooklyn a lifeline. But if they still have to prove that they can consistently beat teams with talented big guys.

Matt Spolar is a nearly 6-foot-1 journalist with a middling high school basketball career who is sure the Nets win thanks to team's top-tier guards.

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Stormed on the Fourth of July

Cops under fire after barbecue goes bad

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops brutally broke up a Fourth of July barbecue in Crown Heights last summer, busting into a house, spraying a crowd with Mace, and arresting four, according to revelers and neighbors who are now demanding justice.

The annual barbecue at the house on Eastern Parkway between Utica and Rochester avenues went sour just after midnight when cops swarmed the yard and then the house, cursing and yelling racial epithets, according to witnesses.

“The cops were yelling ‘get those monkeys’ and ‘get those m-----,’” said Gordon Wilson, who was arrested at the 71st precinct when he says he went to file

a complaint. Wilson claimed that the collar came in late July but police records put it the night of the party, a half-hour after cops cuffed three others. One arrested reveler made a stop at the hospital before jail, according to police, so that he could get treated for a fractured rib, his friends said.

The outdoor party is an annual tradition of the Gittens family, which lives in the three-story townhouse. The driveway barbecue started in the late afternoon and was bumping at midnight when a patrol car pulled up outside the gate, witnesses said. Three cops made a beeline for the party, prompting attendees to pull the gate shut, Keenen Gittens among them.

Police demanded that

they open up, according to Gittens, who says he asked, “What for?” The officers, by then joined by 10 or 15 more cops, responded by shooting Mace through the bars and muscling the passageway open, neighbors said.

“They started hitting me over and over,” said Gittens, adding that cops then cuffed him.

“It was chaos — hell on earth,” said Nicholas Cummins, who lives in an apartment on the third floor of the house. “It was just a war zone filling up with spray.”

The resulting melee saw one cop get hit in the face and, when officers arrested three men, angry onlookers pelted police with bottles and furniture, according to the NYPD. But Cummins dis-



From left, Alex Bourne, Keenen Gittens, Emma Francis-Snyder, Andrew Gittens, Gordon Wilson, and Nicholas Cummings say police officers beat partygoers at a July 4 barbecue on Eastern Parkway.

puted the police version of events, saying no one threw anything.

Wilson, Gittens, and a third man had their charges suspended and will have them

dropped if they stay out of trouble through the spring. Police say a fourth man was charged with assaulting an officer, but court records do not show such a case.

Masked menace attacks bagel buyer

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook

An old guy was buying tea and a bagel at a grocery store on Hicks Street on Jan. 3 when a jerk bashed him in the face, police said.

A goon wearing black jeans and a black face-mask hit the 61-year-old in the face and slammed a door on his foot at the shop between Luquer

and Nelson streets around 3:30 pm, police reported. The victim said he did not know his attacker, cops said.

Cell sour

Cops cuffed a guy for hitting a man in the foot with a cellphone at an apartment complex on Baltic Street on Jan. 6, police said.

The 18-year-old attacker threw the mobile phone at the man’s left foot at the apartment complex between Hoyt and Bond streets and was arrested around 11:23 pm, police said.

The suspect refused to be handcuffed as he was being arrested, said cops, who are charging him with assault.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

Skate crime

A meanie broke into a man’s parked car on President Street sometime between Jan. 4 and Jan. 6 and made off with a pair of ice skates and some electronics, cops said.

The 42-year-old victim parked his green Range Rover between Columbia and Hicks streets on Jan. 4 at 5 pm and, when he returned on Jan. 6 at 11:30 am, he noticed his

weapon, and cuffed him for weapon possession and failing to stop, they said.

— Megan Riesz

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Nailed

A thug with a gun tried to hold up a nail salon on 64th Street on Dec. 30 — then chickened out and scrambled empty-handed, police reported.

Store workers told cops the would-be-stick-up man barged into the parlor near 11th Avenue at 3:10 pm with his weapon drawn.

“Do you want me to shoot someone?” he supposedly demanded.

But before he could get any cash, the lowlife turned tail and ran, cops said.

Doubled down

A pair of punks mugged a man on 70th Street on Jan. 2, according to cops.

The victim said he was walking home near Colonial Road at 11:30 pm when one perp came up behind him and the other approached from the front.

“Give me what you got, run your pockets,” the goon facing him supposedly said.

The victim surrendered

BLOTTER...

Continued from page 1

news to him.

“I have not since this started had a [commanding officer] say, ‘No I’m not going to speak to a reporter,’” Ryan said.

Ryan suggested that the clampdown happened because some precincts’ practices jeopardized confidential information contained in police reports, echoing, but heavily qualifying, claims

made by his bosses at the beginning of the blotter blackout.

“Apparently, perhaps, and I don’t know that this is factual, some reporters may have been setting up relationships with the wrong individuals regarding getting information,” Ryan said. “And that can’t happen. You can’t have some reporter and a crime information officer saying, ‘Let’s go meet up at the five-and-dime

to go over some 61s,’” he said, using the technical name for complaint forms.

That runs counter to the cause cited by his fellow public information sergeant, who last week said that the blotter blackout was a response to daily newspapers’ jealousy over the level of precinct access afforded to community media outlets.

Each of our reporters e-mailed Sgt. Ryan with requests for weekly meetings and, by press time, he said that he had okayed meetings for two precincts.

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Legendary: The Impressions, famous for songs that powered the civil rights movement, is playing the "Let Freedom Ring" concert at Plymouth Church.

Bklyn get ready!

Soul legends the Impressions play anti-slavery concert

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

In many parts of the world, the civil rights movement has never ended, and one band is still singing the soundtrack to freedom and equality. The Impressions, which wrote some of the most famous songs of the Martin Luther King Jr. era, is headlining a concert to bring attention to the ongoing problem of slavery around the world on Jan. 11 — National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. "These songs meant something to a

MUSIC

"Let Freedom Ring: A Concert To Benefit Free the Slaves" at Plymouth Church [57 Orange St. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 624-4743, www.plymouthchurch.org]. Jan. 11 at 7 pm. \$25-\$150.

whole lot of people," said Fred Cash, who has been a member of the band since the early 1960s. "I hope they can get some kind of message out of these songs now." In the 1960s, Impressions songs such as "People Get Ready" and "Keep on Push-

ing" were often sung at sit-ins and other protests, and the band — then fronted by the legendary Curtis Mayfield — became known around the world. The band has continued to tour since then. In recent years, the singers have been backed by a variety of musicians, including guitarist Binky Griptite and trumpeter Dave Guy from Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings, who will join them for their set. "We want to bring attention to the fact that slavery has not ended," said Griptite of the concert, which will raise money for anti-slavery group Free the Slaves. "If this

concert can help people raise their awareness, that is a good thing." To add even more poignancy to the show, it will be held at Brooklyn Heights' Plymouth Church, which was a stop on the Underground Railroad, and the home of pastor Henry Ward Beecher, a prominent abolitionist. The Inspirational Voices of the Abyssinian Baptist Church and Naomi Shelton and the Gospel Queens will also perform at the concert, which is a companion piece to the Brooklyn Historical Society's new "Brooklyn Abolitionists: In Pursuit of Freedom" exhibition, opening Jan. 15.

A clash of trivia kings

'A Song of Ice and Fire' fans play real game of thrones at new Williamsburg trivia night

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Trivia is coming. A mercenary fellowship of Brooklyn literature nerds is putting the gentry in gentrified with the debut of a new bar-based trivia night, which focuses on the books behind the hit HBO series "Game of Thrones." At "A Trivia of Ice and Fire," which will take place at Over the Eight on the first and third Sundays of the month, fans of George RR Martin's fantasy novels are invited to test their knowledge of the Seven Kingdom's noble families and their violent and sexy adventures in the cult five-book series. "It's such a huge world to get into,"

GAMES

"A Trivia of Ice and Fire" at Over the Eight (594 Union Ave. between Richardson and Bayard streets in Williamsburg, www.overtheeight.com). Jan. 19 at 6 pm. Runs every second Sunday.

said Danielle Francis, a member of the organizing group, which goes by the name the Upjumped Sellswords. "I'm looking forward to seeing how deep people's knowledge of the books are." Every night of the biweekly contest will consist of five rounds of questions, each based on a theme, such as the locations in the books, or the customs of its fictional peoples.

The adventurous trivia bands will be required to agree upon a title for their group, and the Upjumped Sellswords has high hopes that the contestants will conjure up some appropriate Westeros monikers. "I'm pretty sure they can come up with really good punny names," said Francis. "They could be something like 'the Brotherhood Without Banners,' or they could come up with their own names, like 'House Johnson.'" Francis said the trivia night — the first the group has organized — is still something of an experiment. "We have questions for our first few nights planned, and we're going to see how it goes," said Francis.



Study session: "A Trivia of Ice and Fire" organizers Geoffrey Golia (left), Stephen Savin, and Steve Danay polish up on their facts.

"We don't know how deep people's knowledge of the books are." In this rag-tag spirit, the group has still not entirely settled on what the contest's prizes will be. It has a few ideas, however — the winners may have their bar tab paid in full, or receive priceless gifts such as a mug style after the sword hilt of Daario Naharis, who fans of the books and TV show will recognize as Daenerys Targaryen's latest lover. "It has a naked woman for a handle," said Francis. "Just like the hilts of Naharis's sword." But regardless of where their audience's knowledge of the popular novels stand, Francis said her clan has been studying heavily in preparation for the trivia challenge. "It's always really fun to come up with questions and nerd out about what you love," she said.

ART

Head and art

It is a whale of an exhibition. Literally. "Sludgie," the ill-fated baby whale that famously meandered into the Gowanus Canal in April 2007 and died after hitting some submerged rocks, is returning to Brooklyn. Or at least part of it is — two



artists have designed an educational exhibit featuring Sludgie's skull, which will be displayed at the upcoming TEDxGowanus on Jan. 26. "This is a gesture toward the whale in the sense that the whale dying in the canal was a tragedy," said designer Sasha Chavchavadze. Chavchavadze, who is also the co-founder of the art and reading gallery Gowanus Proteus, worked with fellow artist Christina Kelly to create a massive broadside featuring newspapers that tell tales of animals and people falling into, or becoming otherwise ensnared by, the centuries-old canal. The installation will also boast cards attached to helium balloons that list flora and fauna that have disappeared or returned to the canal over the years. "There have been many tragedies — some more humorous, some sadder," Chavchavadze said, also noting the death of the dolphin that swam into the canal last year. "This will show how the canal has been the site of multiple issues, almost from the time it was constructed." The artist said she was approached by the organizers of TEDxGowanus — a spin-off from the popular TED conference series, which puts on conferences with talks on topics such as "The \$80 prosthetic knee that's changing lives" — to construct an interactive installation featuring the famed aquatic mammal for the one-day event. The conference creators said they are looking forward to bringing Sludgie back from the dead. "I think the exhibit will do a bunch of great things — it will tell the story of what happened to Sludgie after she died, educate people on whale anatomy, and also revitalize awareness of the intersection between our urban environment and natural environment," said TEDxGowanus organizer Sean Gannet. After the conference is done, Sludgie's skull will go on display at Proteus Gowanus's mini-museum, Hall of the Gowanus, until March. See Sludgie's skull at 501 Union [501 Union St. between Nevins and Bond streets in Gowanus, (347) 529-6486, www.tedxgowanus.com]. Jan. 26 from 11 am. — Megan Ries

THEATER

Geek love

When this couple was separated by 3,000 miles, they did not write each other love letters — they wrote a musical. A Dutch actor and a Brooklyn-based playwright are reprising "The Skype Show" at the Brick Theater on Jan. 11 — a show the pair wrote entirely over the titular instant messaging service from their respective homelands. The musical was not just penned over Skype, it also tells the true story of how couple Jody Christopherson and Michael de Roos maintained their long-distance relationship via the application — something the audience will be able to experience first-hand. "The audience makes it snow, eats some wedding cake, and learns to play the guitar," said Christopherson. "There is a lot of live music and a lot of Skype calls." De Roos and Christopherson first met in Brooklyn in 2013 when de Roos saw Christopherson performing in a play at a Crown Heights church. "We went to Dutch Boy Burger afterwards to celebrate and immediately hit it off," said Christopherson. "He was a beatboxer, I was a singer. We both liked French fries and Brooklyn. So we moved in together and made music, film, and theater for two years."

The talented twosome founded a band called Greencard Wedding. But in 2012, de Roos was forced to return to Amsterdam due to visa complications. Although the separation was tough, it ultimately resulted in "The Skype Show." The limitations of Skype meant they were not being able to sing harmonies together. But the artists discovered an alternative — they could write a play. In doing so, they may have also helped de Roos overcome his visa problems. "Producing the show allows us to create a case for a visa," said Christopherson. "Ideally, with enough engagements, we can put funding toward getting his visa and make a case for him to reside in America." "The Skype Show" at the Brick Theater [579 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 285-3863, www.bricktheater.com]. Jan. 11-Feb. 8. \$18. — Samantha Lim

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MONTHLY HEALTH TIPS
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Try, Try and Succeed

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Weight Loss

by Yen Ling Chong, M.D., Psychiatrist and Cognitive Behavioral Therapist for Weight Loss, New York Methodist Hospital

Every year, I seem to find myself optimistically making the same New Year's resolution: eat healthier, exercise, go to gym classes, drop some pounds and get back to a healthy weight. But even with the support of my friends and family, it's never long before I stumble in my diet plan, become discouraged and revert to my old, bad habits. How can I break the cycle, and be successful with my weight loss goals for 2014?

If you are planning to go on a diet in 2014, you're not alone. According to the Centers for Disease Control, two out of every three adult Americans are overweight or obese. After the high-calorie holiday season that typically comes with the end of the calendar year, it's no surprise that so many New Year's resolutions involve weight loss. Unfortunately, while over 50 million Americans go on diets every year to try to shed those unwanted pounds, only a fraction achieve long term success.

As you have experienced, mental blocks such as stress and disappointment are the most common barriers to successful, long term weight loss. Even well-planned diet and exercise regimens can be derailed by a single deviation, such as impulsively eating junk food, missing a day or two of exercise because of work,

or developing a temporary illness.

It's understandable to want to overcome these mental blocks on your own. However, if you've found yourself consistently failing to succeed in your attempts at dieting, you may benefit from cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) for weight loss. CBT is a supplementary, drug free way to address the mental hurdles that are stopping you from keeping the pounds off, and it is significantly more effective than diet and exercise alone at helping patients lose weight and maintain their weight loss.

Cognitive behavioral therapy sessions are a one-on-one collaboration between a patient and a doctor who specializes in CBT. The goal of CBT is to help patients identify their negative "trigger thoughts"—thoughts that trigger emotions which, in turn lead to negative consequences. The aim of CBT is not to eliminate those thoughts—rather it is to give dieters the awareness and discipline to identify triggers, change the behaviors that result from them and break the weight-gaining cycle.

January 1 may have come and gone, but reaching and maintaining a healthy body weight is always an important goal. There's no reason to let a lack of success in previous diets keep you from succeeding in this one.

WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
January 10



Bro-lesque

Misters are doing it for themselves once again, when "Boys' Night: An All-Male Cirquelesque Revue" returns to Galapagos Art Space. The show features buff, scantily-clad dudes performing burlesque and circus arts for an audience of both admiring ladies and gents.

9 pm at Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 222-8500, www.galapagosartspace.com]. \$20–\$25.

SATURDAY
January 11

I'm-a gonna win

Start your engines. The Diamond bar is holding a tournament for the classic Nintendo party game "Mario Kart 64." The winner gets their bar tab paid, so decide whether you want to be Toad, Wario, or Yoshi (but not Peach; no one wants to be Peach) and prepare to tear through Koopa Troopa Beach.

4 pm at the Diamond [43 Franklin St. near Calyer Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5030, www.thediamondbrooklyn.com]. Free.



SUNDAY
January 12

Globe trotters

Snarking at award shows is just more fun with other people — especially when one of those people is a comedian. Videology is hosting a screening of the Golden Globes, which will be emceed by funny lady Maggie Ross, and also feature trivia, drink specials, and even a red carpet.

6 pm at Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-3468, www.videology.info]. Free.

TUESDAY
January 14

Party hard

Calling all party people! History lecture event series the Society for the Advancement of Social Studies is cranking up the stereo and putting a lampshade on its head for its next subject — the history of partying. Probing historical topics will include "Who partied hardest in ancient Rome?" and "the ongoing war against bumpin' dance parties."

7 pm at the Bedford [110 Bedford Ave. at N. 11th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-1002, www.thebedfordonbedford.com]. Free.



THURSDAY
January 15

None more black

It is dark beer season, so give a toast to stouts, porters, and brown ales when Brooklyn Brewery pours a selection of its finest dark beers for its annual "Brooklyn Black-out" night. Brewer Garrett Oliver will be at Spuyten Devil, serving up some hard-to-find and vintage dark and stormy brews.

7 pm at Spuyten Devil [359 Metropolitan Ave. near N. Fourth Street in Williamsburg, (718) 963-4140, www.spuyten-duyvilnyc.com]. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JAN. 10

COMEDY, THE HYSTERODACTYL COMEDY SHOW: Danny DelColle and Dillon Stevenson host a lineup of some of their favorite comedians. Free. 7:30 pm. Red Star Bar [37 Greenpoint Ave. at West Street in Greenpoint, (718) 349-0162], redstarry.com.

THEATER, "ARMINIO IN ARMENIA: A Budget Epic": Opera Feroce presents a concert version of their opera, which features music by Nicola Porpora and an original storyline. \$20 (suggested). 7:30 pm. Zion German Evangelical Lutheran Church [125-131 Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (347) 909-1501], operaferoce.com.

MUSIC, THE WHIGS: \$12. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

THEATER, "BRAND NEW ANCIENTS": Kate Tempest's genre-defying performance. \$25 (\$20 members). 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse [29 Jay St. between John and Plymouth streets in Dumbo, (718) 254-8779], www.stannswarehouse.org.

MUSIC, MEET ME IN THE BATHROOM AND TELL ME ALL YOUR SECRETS: A night of comedy and music with Dave Hill, Valley Lodge, Har Mar Superstar, Jackie Kashian, Doug Gillard, Mike Bocchetti, Ben Lerman, and Jodi Lennon. \$10. 8:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, KARL KLING (OF RAC): With DJ sets from Anamanaguchi and Infinity Shred. \$12. 11:30 pm. Glasslands [289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg], www.glasslands.com.

SUN, JAN. 12

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, JAY Z: \$32.50–\$175. 8 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

MUSIC, GHOST TO GO, THE DEAD-EYES, THE FYLLS: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, MUSIC BY BOB BROOKMEYER: \$10 (suggested). 8:30 pm. iBeam Brooklyn [168 Seventh St. Third Fl. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus], www.ibeambrooklyn.com.

MON, JAN. 13

COMEDY, ASK ME ANOTHER: Night of trivia, comedy, and music hosted by Ophira Eisenberg. With guest Delia Ephron. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 7:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebell-houseny.com.

COMEDY, MICHAEL KOSTA AND HIS "FRIENDS": The comedian hosts a night of comedy with Michelle Buteau, Jared Logan, and more. \$5. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, HANK MAY, SMALL WONDER, THE BEARS: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

TUES, JAN. 14

COMEDY, CHEAP DATE COMEDY SHOW: With Kevin Avery, Jackie Kashian, Jay Welch, and more. \$5. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, BRIDGE CITY HUSTLE, THE LIZA COLBY SOUND, WET WATER, GRAVE'S END: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

WED, JAN. 15

TALK, COMIC BOOK NIGHT: With Sean Howe and Tim Leong. After a panel discussion, the experts will answer questions and sign copies. Free. 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

READING, ALEXANDRA ELLE: Author of "Words From a Wanderer." Free. 7–9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

COMEDY, "THE ELECTRIC STUDY BREAK": With Rob Cantrell, Matt Koff, and more. \$5. 8:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

THURS, JAN. 16

TALK, FRAN LEBOWITZ: In conversation with Martin Scorsese. \$30. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland

FRI, JAN. 17

TALK, MICHAEL MOSS: Author of "Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us." Free. 7 pm. Park Slope Coop [782 Union Ave. between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope, (718) 622-0560].

MUSIC, SLICK RICK: \$15. 9 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, BRIDGES AND POWERLINES, HIGH WAISTED, EULA: \$8. 9 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

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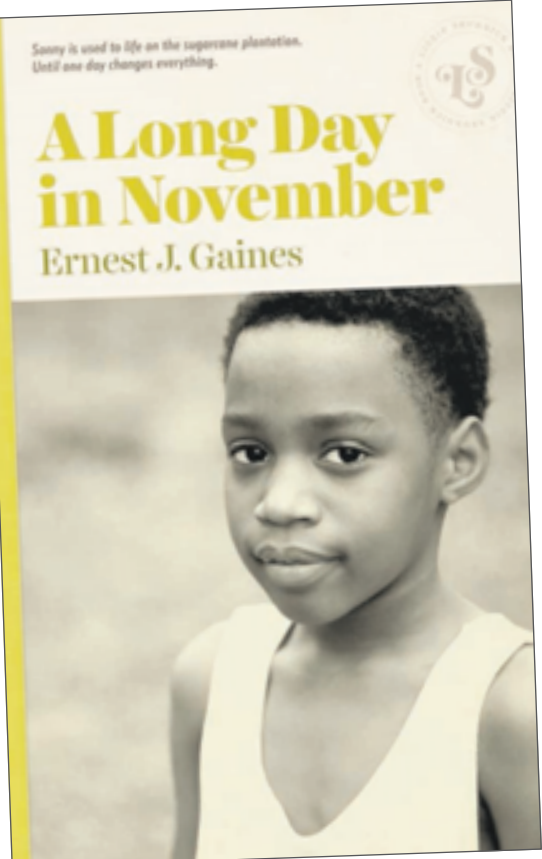
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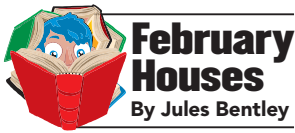
For the young at heart

Brooklyn-published ‘A Long Day in November’ is a young adult novel that defies designation

Ernest J. Gaines’ “A Long Day in November” is being published as a young adult book, but it has a lot to offer readers of any age.

Released through Fort Greene-based Ig Publishing’s Lizzie Skurnick Books imprint in November last year, Gaines’ novel brings readers into the life of six-year-old Sonny, denizen of a world entirely unfamiliar to most of us.

Sonny is the child of plantation sharecroppers in 1930s or ’40s Louisiana, though the actual work of sharecropping is only a small part of the



story. In the book’s opening, Sonny is pulled from bed by his mother, Amy, who is leaving Sonny’s father. Over the course of a long day, Sonny bounces between competing factions of his family, attends school, and accompanies his father, Eddie, on his quest to win back Amy’s love.

Through Sonny’s eyes we learn, indirectly, a great deal about the lives of this sharecropping community. We see their homes and workplaces, their aspirations and preoccupations, and their currencies

of respect and friendship.

Even when well-intentioned, writing about extremely poor people is often paternalistic, guilty of idealizing or exoticizing its subjects. But these are pitfalls Gaines avoids, treating his impoverished characters as humans, and allowing their lives to be normal instead of examples presented in contrast to normality. Gaines himself came from a background similar to Sonny’s, and “A Long Day in November” is testament to how lived, earned insight can produce a superior written experience.

The writing is so full of sly humor that just holding the book seems to warm your

hands. The desperation with which Eddie pursues reunion makes for some extremely funny exchanges, and while Gaines never passes overt judgements on his characters, you can feel him smiling as he writes the richly vituperative insults of Sonny’s grandmother.

There is also a lot to enjoy in young Sonny’s deadpan, matter-of-fact narration. Gaines expertly

handles two sides of childhood innocence — both the faith children have in adults (whether those adults in fact know what they’re doing or not), and the way children’s seemingly artless questions or observations can lay bare the truth.

One of the great pleasures of reading is encountering a relatable experience or truth in a new guise. To recognize familiar human foibles play-

ing out in a set of specifics different from our own is to glimpse the eyes of a friend behind a mask. This is one of the most profound experiences literature can offer us — the synaptic lightning-strike of recognition across differences of time, geography, and culture. It is an experience of connection that, through the all-too-human misadventures of his characters, Gaines provides abundantly.

“A Long Day in November” is an engaging, funny story told well, and a book that will provoke thought and conversation in readers adult or otherwise.

“February Houses,” named after the 20th-century Brooklyn arts commune, spotlights recent or noteworthy literature from Brooklyn publishers. To send books for review, contact xjulesbentley@gmail.com.

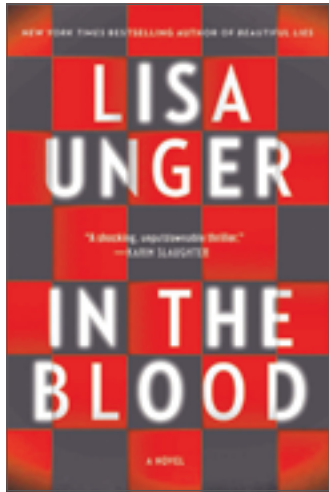
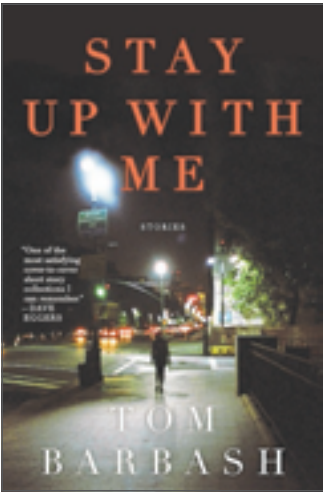
Three more excellent reads

Brooklyn booksellers give their top recommendations

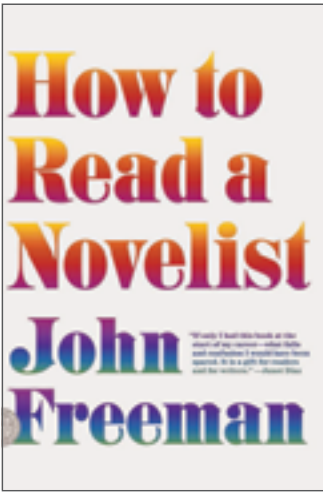
WORD’s pick

“Stay Up With Me” by Tom Barbash: The episodes of awkwardness, embarrassment, selfishness, and loneliness that exist in this collection hit humanity on the nose. Tom Barbash’s crisp, minimalist storytelling cuts to the chase and leaves his characters exposed. What particularly moved me were the incredible flaws of his older characters. Often, his youthful characters are flawed in the way youth is flawed, but are open, kindhearted people. The older characters, however, are self-seeking and completely, utterly lost. Each story is better than the next, and I am sure I will go back to them again.

— CJ Schmidt, WORD [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, www.wordbrooklyn.com].



fessor and mentor suggests a part-time nanny position to a bright, energetic boy, Lana quickly agrees. What Lana learns is that young Luke, who attends a school for troubled children, can be extremely is volatile and vicious. He reminds of her of another young troubled boy from her past, a past she had succeeded in running away from. Or so she thought. A gripping parallel story of diary entries brings this novel to a head in an explosive, jaw-dropping

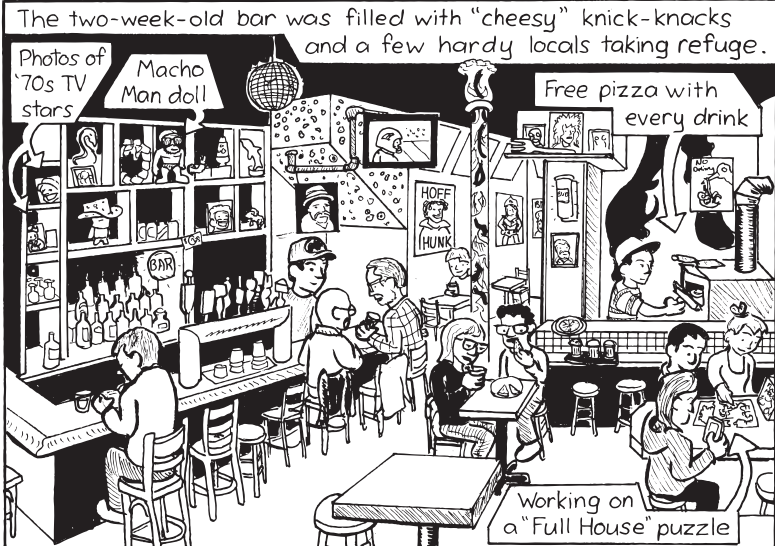
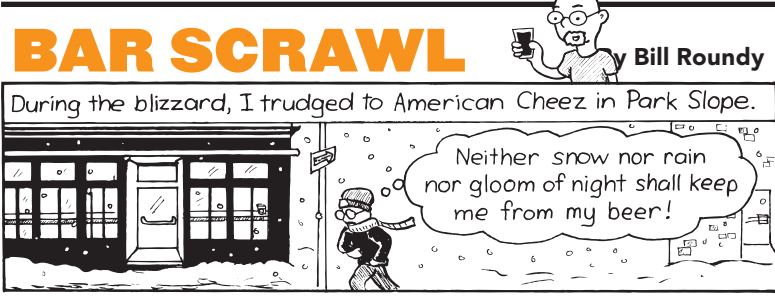


ending. A fast-paced story best read with a several nightlights on.

— Bina Valenzano, co-owner, The BookMark Shoppe [8415 Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-5115, www.bookmarkshoppe.com].

Greenlight’s pick

“How to Read a Novelist” by John Freeman: Get ready to add to your “to-be-read” pile. John Freeman’s



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Cold comfort

Marty Markowitz and wife Jamie ring in the new year at Grand Army Plaza. When the clock struck midnight, Markowitz did not turn into a pumpkin, but he did lose his government powers.

285 Kent goes out with a song

After eight years, W'burg music venue's coda is four big shows

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A Williamsburg indie venue is saying sayonara with several blow-out concerts over the next two weeks.

The do-it-yourself honky-tonk 285 Kent has welcomed fringe music since 2006 and its impending closure has performers and fans alike feeling nostalgic.

"Sad to see it go," said one-mandance-band Dan Deacon, who is headlining a show at the venue across the street from the Domino Sugar factory on Jan. 17. "Many great memories."

The final days of 2013 saw rampant speculation that club owner

Todd Patrick, who goes by "Todd P," planned to shut down the music venue at the year's end, but concerts continued early this month. Now, the venue has announced that it will host its final four shows, featuring Detroit noise rockers Wolf Eyes, spastic Brooklyn R&B fusionists Ava Luna, and Canadian hardcore band F----- Up, among others, on Jan. 11, 17, 18, and 19.

The club hosted early shows of now-major indie names such as Grimes and Titus Andronicus and helped rear a generation of wet-behind-the-ears hipsters.

"Some of the first shows I saw in

New York were at 285 Kent, and I made a lot of friends there," said Leanne Dolard, who lives in Bushwick.

Many fans were not surprised that 285 Kent is closing.

"These kind of spaces are transient," said Joe Ahearn, the bookkeeper at Bushwick venue Silent Barn. "The fact that that it lasted as long as it did in as hyper-genetrified an area as Williamsburg is impressive."

All music venues, especially ones that focus on lesser-known, experimental acts, run the risk of sharing the same fate, said Ahearn.

"Silent Barn has a 10-year lease, which is key in creating longer-term

sustainability," he said. "Short of buying property, that's all you can do."

A September visit from police and subsequent health inspections rattled show organizers, according to the Village Voice.

Todd P has opened a new club called Trans-Pecos inside the former Silent Barn space in Queens, only unlike its extralegal predecessor, this venue has the proper permits. Trans-Pecos started hosting shows in December.

Final shows at 285 Kent (285 Kent Ave. between S. First and S. Second Streets in Williamsburg) Jan. 11, 17, 18, and 19 at 8 pm. \$15. All ages.

FARINA...

Continued from page 1

"Carmen Farina was my favorite teacher, but I imagine anyone who'd been in one of her classrooms would say

the same," said the novelist known as the Bard of Boerum Hill until his shocking defection to Southern California in 2010 and subsequent

trash-talking of the borough that made him the following year.

"I'm thrilled at the news," he said of her appointment.

Lethem listened to Elvis for the first time and drank his first root beer float during his class's end-of-the-

year retreat at Farina's country home in the Poconos, the news website Capital New York reported.

"I still think of that group as a magic group of kids," the scribe, now a professor at Ponom College, told the website.

Lethem loved Farina so much he dedicated his first novel "Gun, with Occasional Music" to her.

Farina takes Dennis Walcott's place having served at almost every level of the school system, making her the most experienced education

honor in decades.

Farina taught at PS 29 for 22 years and Lethem was not the only one who described her skills there in supernatural terms.

"She was magical for the children," said Cobble Hill resident Dorothy Siegel, an

autism specialist at New York University who trains public school teachers.

Siegel, 67, first met Farina when her daughter was enrolled in Farina's third grade class more than three decades ago. The two have remained close and even drove to Park

Slope's MS 51 on Tuesday for the announcement of Farina's appointment as chancellor.

Sloper-in-chief Bill DeBlasio's kids attended MS 51 and he and Farina initially crossed paths in 2001, when she was leading the neighborhood's school district and he was a member of its school board, his first elected post. She has been a sounding board for the rising political star ever since.

DeBlasio was elected Park Slope's councilman soon thereafter and Farina went on to become the superintendent for region 8 in Brooklyn, which serves scores of schools from Williamsburg to Sunset Park.

Siegel remembers Farina as an "irresistible teacher" who went through the region leaving her mark.

"Williamsburg, Bushwick, Sunset Park, Park Slope, Kensington — she went to all those schools and inspired everybody," Siegel said.

Farina was appointed deputy chancellor in 2004, but stepped down two years later over differences with then-chancellor Joel Klein. Farina was particularly opposed to the increased weight given to standardized test scores. Both DeBlasio and Farina have said they are unhappy with Bloomberg's data-driven approach to school planning and the school pro helped DeBlasio craft his call for universal pre-kindergarten, a pillar of his mayoral campaign.

Siegel says teachers and principals citywide are tickled pink to have Farina in charge, so tickled they might "start dancing."

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SHACK...

Continued from page 1

and Seventh Avenues, a constant media presence, and, since Thursday, the loss of two parking spaces to the new hut. The space erasure worsens an already-night-marish parking situation, Leong said.

The police booth is equipped with picture windows on all four sides and comes with a 24-hour sentinel. Security cameras also went up outside the DeBlasio abode on Thursday afternoon, according to another longtime neighbor who is less bothered by all the hubbub.

“In a way, it is a good thing,” said Alan Emdin, who lives four doors down.

Police headquarters did not return repeated calls for comment.

BOWL...

Continued from page 1

The Las Vegas branch will open inside the Linq, a new entertainment mall near the famous Las Vegas Strip. That location will be more than twice as big as the Wythe Avenue mothership.

The opening of an outlet of the London-based record store chain Rough Trade in Williamsburg two months ago makes for a sort of hipster cultural exchange between the two cities.

If your borough-based company wants to cash in on some of that cool-Brooklyn shine, all it takes is opening up a location in another city, Ryan said.

“If you talk to kids in Tokyo or Amsterdam, they will tell you they want to come to Brooklyn,” he said. “It’s not so much branding as us going somewhere and saying, ‘We are here.’”

BATCAVE...

Continued from page 1

made the brick structure a destination over the last decade, according to spokeswoman Maureen Connelly.

“We have spent the last year securing the building from squatters,” Connelly said.

The lot has been home to a coal-fired power station, a paper mill, and an electrical power station over the past 125 years — and has the heavy metals and coal tar to prove it. But it has sat abandoned since the 1990s and has become a beacon to transients, graffiti writers, and punk rockers who have alternately used it as a crash pad, a canvas, and a venue. The mid-2000s saw plans for a high-rise luxury development called Gowanus Village on the site fall through around the time of the economic collapse, but Rechnitz may have gotten more than he bargained for when he bought the place for \$7 million with plans to turn it into some kind of art center.

Throughout the summer leading up to, and even three days after the purchase, the cavernous space played host to a series of generator-powered shows and word-of-mouth parties, the news website Gothamist reported. Nor did the intrusions stop once the new owner had sealed the doors and bricked up the windows. Obsessed urban explorers cut through fences for a look at the heavily photographed post-industrial ruin, prompting Rechnitz to hire round-the-clock security, according to Connelly.

The visits have slowed to a trickle in recent months, and consisted mostly of 14-to-25-year-olds toting cameras and backpacks over the summer, she said.

cConnelly said the ground and building need heavy-duty work before an architect can even begin to lay out Rechnitz’s vision. Locals say the art space would be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

“The plan for this property, if successful would further prove that Gowanus is a place for investment,” said Paul Basile, president of the Gowanus Alliance.

The state is taking comments on its clean-up plan until Feb. 17.

DeBlasio hires ‘would-be LICH killer’

Civic group outraged, then silent on appointment of former Continuum head

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor DeBlasio’s last Tuesday appointment of a businessman who once presided over the gutting of Long Island College Hospital to an advisor position sparked outcry among anti-hospital closure activists this week, then silence.

Fighting the state’s bid to close the hospital was a signature issue of DeBlasio’s campaign, so the announcement that he would hire former Continuum Health Partners head Stan Brezenoff as an unpaid advisor on labor relations to Deputy Mayor Tony Shorris did not sit well with the Cobble Hill Association. The civic group tweeted its outrage immediately after the news broke, but then clammed

up, apparently in deference to DeBlasio, who as mayor will play a key role in deciding the hobbled hospital’s fate.

“Stan Brezenoff the LICH-killer as special advisor to the deputy mayor?!?! Are you kidding me?” the association tweeted last Tuesday.

Other mini missives from the group accused Brezenoff of plundering the hospital’s \$140-million Othmer Endowment Fund.

The fund has not had a public accounting, but Brezenoff’s Continuum ran the Cobble Hill medical center into the ground in the late 2000s, racking up \$170-million in debt, firing staffers, selling hospital buildings, and trying to close key departments. In 2008, pols including former Borough

President Marty Markowitz accused the company of trying to kill the hospital, while then-Slope councilman DeBlasio said Continuum execs should have asked for help sooner.

But on Thursday, activists’ lips were sealed on Brezenoff’s appointment. Union reps at the New York State Nurses Association did not return requests for comment. And Roy Sloane, president of the Cobble Hill Association, would say only that he did not want to “influence any outcome regarding the hospital” and that the tweets were written by someone else in his organization.

Nor was Brezenoff eager to highlight his track record.

“We have enormous chal-



Stan Brezenoff

lenges ahead of us,” said Brezenoff in a written statement that made no mention of his time at Continuum. “It won’t be easy, but this will be a progressive and effective administration that protects taxpayers and respects its workers.”

The State University of

New York took over the health-care facility in 2010, but that did little to alleviate its woes. State hospital honchos spent 2013 trying to again pull the plug on the hospital that sits on land valued at as much as \$500-million over the objection of staffers, DeBlasio, and other elected officials.

Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Carolyn Demarest, who issued a bombshell court order demanding the state relinquish control of the hospital to any taker — she first picked Continuum, but it declined — has also ordered the state to account for and pay back the money it took from the Othmer endowment. The state said it burned through most of the permanent operating fund and would have trou-

ble paying it back because it had always planned to sell off hospital property to make up the difference and is now prohibited from doing so.

Brezenoff has been in and out of city government throughout his career. He served under Mayor Ed Koch as head of the city’s Health and Hospitals Corporation. He later worked as director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and was in command during the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, for which the agency avoided paying out millions to victims after nearly 20 years of court battles over whether it was negligent for ignoring warnings that the buildings’ underground parking garage was vulnerable to a terrorist attack.

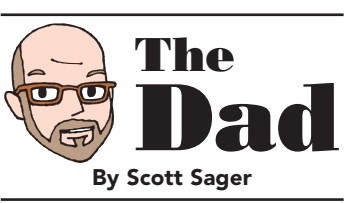
The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

PARENT

Where there’s a will, there’s a way

The start of a new year brings with it an acute awareness of the passage of time. There is no denying I am getting older as one calendar comes off the wall and a new one goes up, and there are items on my to-do list that I put off because they remind me I’m aging.



By Scott Sager

Sadly, I have shirked some important parental responsibilities because I don’t want to face my own, inevitable demise. I’m not planning on dying tomorrow, but I cannot say when that dreaded day will come.

This year’s goal, then, is to take care of all those preparations. Some are really updates. For example, when my first daughter was born, my wife and I took out some life insurance. It seemed like a lot back then, when we were both just out of grad school and moved all our possessions in

a small U-Haul up and down the East Coast.

When we finally settled in Brooklyn, we did make wills, figuring this was the only way to avoid an inevitable tug-of-war among extended families over our perfect and delightful young girls.

Many calendars have come and gone on my wall since then. Now I have teenagers, one in college, one soon on her way, a mortgage, a car, and a dog. Life has become much more complicated, but I’ve never gone back and reviewed those arrangements. I’m without a healthcare proxy, a letter expressing my wishes for a funeral, or even a plot to be put in.

Facing these tasks means

asking some big questions, like what do I really want to leave my children in terms of money or things? No debt seems like a good starting place. How about enough to finish college and buy a home? Or maybe just enough to cover the expenses of burying me and cleaning up my affairs is the way to go. What about letters, mementoes, candlesticks, the things that make a family history? What is my responsibility to my kids?

I have tried to bring up these issues with my girls, gently pointing out that I won’t always be around and we should talk about what that means. Always, I am met with, “I don’t want to talk about that,” or “This is creepy, change the subject.”

Letting their discomfort keep me from planning is clearly not the way to go, so this year, it is time to move ahead. I am trying to think of it like any other task of fatherhood that I wasn’t excited about — folding clothes, changing diapers, saying good

night to 20 stuffed animals. My goal, as with so many other parental duties, is to make things easier for my girls, so that if it comes to pass, the pa-

pers are in order and a difficult time won’t be complicated by unfinished preparations and disorganization.

I’m writing my list on

each month of my calendar so I won’t forget to get these things taken care of before the next calendar gets unwrapped and put on the wall.

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Legal Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY given, that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 01/07/2014, bearing Index Number NC-00016-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Stephanie (Middle) Anne (Last) O'Neill. My present name is (First) Stephanie (Middle) Nicole (Last) Donald aka Stephanie N Donald aka Stephanie Donald. My present address is 135 Clarkson Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11226-. My place of birth is Atlanta, GA. My date of birth is September 25, 1985.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 01/06/2014, bearing Index Number NC-00014-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Leo (Last) Lion. My present name is (First) Lev (Middle) Pavlovich (Last) Lion (infant). My present address is 303 99th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209-. My place of birth is Lawrence, Kansas. My date of birth is January 22, 2000.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/30/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001444-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Emily (Middle) Young (Last) Alford. My present name is (First) Emily (Middle) Catherine (Last) Young. My present address is 78 8th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Tulsa, OK. My date of birth is September 18, 1983.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 01/06/2014, bearing Index Number NC-00011-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Jajaira (Middle) Gisselle (Last) Freeman. My present name is (First) Jajaira (Middle) Gisselle (Last) Morges AKA Jajaira G. Freeman AKA Jajaira Gisselle Freeman. My present address is 772 Blake Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207-. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is November 28, 1994.

NOTICE OF SALE OF COOP APARTMENT SECURITY BY VIRTUE OF A DEFAULT

Pursuant to a Security Agreement dated August 17, 2005 executed by Natalie T. Hill and David R. Greenaway to Emigrant Mortgage Company, Inc. secured party, in accordance with its rights as holder of the Security, by Jessica Prince-Clateman, DCA #1097640, Vincent DeAngelis, DCA #1127571, Karen Loiacano, DCA #1435601, or Liza Wilson, DCA #1435604, will conduct a public sale of the security consisting of 1040 shares of stock of Clifton & Classon Apt. Corp.(the "Corporation") all right, title and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease between said Corporation and debtor for Apt# 11 in building known as 110 Clifton Place, Brooklyn, New York together with all fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said apartment on January 16, 2014 at 1:30pm at the Front Steps, Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 in satisfaction of an indebtedness in the unpaid principal amount of \$325,743.20 plus interest, late fees, attorney fees, maintenance in arrears and all other charges. Apartment is sold "AS IS" AND POSSESSION TO BE OBTAINED BY THE PURCHASER. Said sale is subject to: payment of all sums due, if any, to the Corporation and the consent if necessary, of said Corporation; any existing tenancy; payment of all expenses and fees of the secured party with respect thereto; terms of sale and auctioneer's fees; flip-tax; State, City and County transfer tax. The secured party reserves the right to bid. Terms: an official bank or certified check made payable to Stagg, Terenzi, Confusione & Wabnik, LLP for ten (10%) percent of price bid.

Stagg, Terenzi, Confusione & Wabnik, LLP (Escrowee) (516) 812-4500

Jessica Prince-Clateman, DCA #1097640, Vincent DeAngelis, DCA #1127571, Karen Loiacano, DCA #1435601, or Liza Wilson, DCA #1435604 (Auctioneer (516-767-5155)

STAGG, TERENZI, CONFUSIONE & WABNIK, LLP Attorneys for Emigrant Mortgage Company, Inc. 401 FRANKLIN AVENUE SUITE 300 GARDEN CITY, N.Y. 11530 (516) 812-4500 - #83526

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NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, EMIGRANT MORTGAGE COMPANY, INC. Plaintiff, vs. JADZIA MALINOWSKI, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on May 01, 2013, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 13, 2014 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 158 15th Street, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 1047 and Lot 13. Approximate amount of judgment is \$519,811.47 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 22865/08.

Francis Terrell, Esq., Referee Borchert & LaSpina, P.C., 19-02 Whitestone Expressway, Suite 302, Whitestone, New York 11357, Attorneys for Plaintiff

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The NYC Board of Standards and Appeals has scheduled a public hearing on the following application: **Variance (§72-21) to permit the operation of a physical culture establishment (H.I.T. Factory Improved) on the second floor of the existing building contrary to §32-10 zoning resolution. C1-3/R6B zoning district.** Address:7914 Third Avenue, west Side of Third Avenue between 79th and 80th Street, Block 5978, Lot 46, Borough of Brooklyn.

Applicant... Sheldon Lobel, P.C., for SKP Realty, owner; H.I.T. Factory Approved Inc., owner. Community Board No.: 10BK

This application, Cal. No.: 274-13-BZ, has been calendared for Public Hearing Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 10:00 A.M. session, in Spector Hall, 22 Reade Street, Borough of Manhattan. Interested persons or associations may appear at the hearing to present testimony regarding this application. This application can be reviewed at the Board offices, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

This notice is published by the applicant in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Board of Standards and Appeals. Dated: January 10 and 17, 2014 Sheldon Lobel, P.C., Applicant

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